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# THE PERISCOPE

## SIX OF OUR ICBM'S ARE MISSING

When Defense Secretary Melvin Laird testified before Congress last week on U.S. defenses, he placed the U.S. land-based intercontinental ballistic-missile count at 1,048. The accepted figure has been 1,054. Have six ICBM's been "lost"? Not quite. They have been pulled out of the United States strategic strike force for "special missions"—reportedly so that they can be used to shoot down nuclear warheads in orbit, or other hostile satellites.

## HOW SINO-SOVIET FORCES SHAPE UP

Here is a breakdown of Soviet and Chinese troop strength along the 4,500 miles of border between the two countries: the Soviets have 400,000 troops there; the Chinese, 550,000. About 40 per cent of the troops on each side of the frontier are concentrated along its most easterly—and heavily settled—stretch. Along the entire frontier, the Russians have 185 airfields, most of them with mile-long runways capable of handling jet fighters and heavy bombers. The Chinese, apparently as a defensive measure, have only one airfield close to the border.

## SOUTH KOREA: U.S. CUTBACK AHEAD

When the U.S. airlifted 700 soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., to South Korea last week as part of a massive troop-deployment exercise, South Koreans expressed fears that this was the prelude to a cutback in the U.S. garrison in South Korea. And rightly so. This summer the U.S. will withdraw 5,000 troops. Long-range plans call for reducing the remaining 55,000-man U.S. garrison by half in the early 1970s—providing that Communist North Korea reduces the present level of infiltration and that Japan takes on a more active military role.

## KNIGHT NEWS CHAIN GOES PUBLIC

Knight Newspapers, Inc., will raise about \$30 million when it puts its stock on public sale next month for the first time. Since the stock offering constitutes about 40 per cent of the outstanding shares (the rest will remain in the hands of the Knight family), this would give the chain a total paper value of roughly \$100 million. The Knight chain is going public for two reasons: to lessen the impact of inheritance taxes (editorial chairman John S. Knight is 74), and to pave the way for new acquisitions through exchanges of stock. Daily newspapers owned by the Knights include The Miami Herald, The Detroit Free Press and The Akron Beacon Journal.